

**DOE Weekly Field Memo – June 30, 2010**

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**[State Appropriation for Special Education for FY 2011](#)**

**Audience: Superintendents, Special Education Administrators, Business Managers**

This memo provides information on the FY-2011 Special Education appropriations as passed by the legislature and signed by the governor. View the memo at

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_finance\\_sped.html#fm\\_1007](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_finance_sped.html#fm_1007).

Contact: Margaret Schelley (802) 828-5119; [Margaret.schelley@state.vt.us](mailto:Margaret.schelley@state.vt.us); or Lisa Allard (802) 828-0769; [lisa.allard@state.vt.us](mailto:lisa.allard@state.vt.us).

**[Save Electricity: School Lighting Audits Free for Schools](#)**

**Audience: Principals, Head Custodians, School Boards**

Prior to energy-saving lighting retrofits, lighting audits can determine the appropriate placement and number of fixtures needed to achieve optimum results. Good news: the traditional audit cost share agreement is being waived for K-12 schools. Efficiency Vermont will pay designers directly for the audit cost at a maximum rate of 3 cents per square foot. (If an audit costs more than 3 cents/sf, the school can receive a rebate for the excess amount if/when the project completes.) The design phase of the RELIGHT program also includes generous rebates. See

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_construction.html#facilities](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_construction.html#facilities).

Contact: Cathy Hilgendorf, School Construction Consultant, at (802) 828-5402 or [cathy.hilgendorf@state.vt.us](mailto:cathy.hilgendorf@state.vt.us)

**[School Safety Review Checklist](#)**

**Audience: Principals, Head Custodians, School Boards**

Repair your buildings. The School Safety Review Checklist is a tool to help school personnel identify areas and conditions that may be unsafe. Adapt it to your facilities as you see fit. Visit

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_construction.html#checklist](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_construction.html#checklist).

Contact: Cathy Hilgendorf, School Construction Consultant, at (802) 828-5402 or [cathy.hilgendorf@state.vt.us](mailto:cathy.hilgendorf@state.vt.us)

**[Transformation Handout: Implementation Summary 2010](#)**

**Audience: All**

This handout is an implementation framework summary for the transformation of education in Vermont. It includes State Board of Education Strategic Plan draft goals as of June 2010. View the handout at

<http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/transformation.html#handout>.

Contact: Carol King, State Board Liaison, at (802) 828-5101 or [carol.c.king@state.vt.us](mailto:carol.c.king@state.vt.us)

### **Announcing the Early Education Initiative Grant Awards for 2010-2011**

#### **Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Special Education Directors**

The Early Education Initiative (EEI) Grant Program funds quality early education opportunities for 3-5 year old children who are at risk. This competitive grant program has been in existence for over 20 years. To view the list of EEI grant awards for 2010-2011, go to:

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_earlyed.html#eei\\_awards](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_earlyed.html#eei_awards).

Manuela Fonseca, Ed.D., Early Education Coordinator, at (802) 828-3850 or [manuela.fonseca@state.vt.us](mailto:manuela.fonseca@state.vt.us)

### **Results of Vermont's Kindergarten Readiness Survey for 2009-2010**

#### **Audience: Superintendents, Elementary School Principals, Curriculum Coordinators**

Since 2000 the department, in collaboration with the Agency of Human Services, has been collecting data on the readiness of kindergartners as determined by their classroom teachers during the first few weeks of school. The results of the most recent survey have been analyzed and are reported in Vermont's Statewide Report on Kindergarten Readiness 2009-2010:

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_earlyed.html#readiness](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_earlyed.html#readiness)

Manuela Fonseca, Ed.D., Early Education Coordinator, at (802) 828-3850 or [manuela.fonseca@state.vt.us](mailto:manuela.fonseca@state.vt.us)

### **Press Release: School Custodian of the Year Honored**

#### **Audience: All**

One very special long-time school custodian was chosen recently by the Vermont Department of Education and Vermont School Custodians and Maintenance Association (VSCMA) as Vermont's School Custodian of the Year. The 2010 Vermont School Custodian of the Year is Doris "Jean" Brooks, custodian at the Jamaica Village School. For more information, visit

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/press\\_releases.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/press_releases.html).

Contact: Cathy Hilgendorf, School Construction Consultant, at (802) 828-5402  
[cathy.hilgendorf@state.vt.us](mailto:cathy.hilgendorf@state.vt.us)

### **BEST Update: Over 400 Educators Participate in Building Effective Strategies for Teaching Students (BEST) Institute**

The 14th Annual BEST Summer Institute was attended for the second year by a sold-out crowd.

Kevin Jennings, Assistant Deputy Secretary of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-free Schools, delivered the keynote address on June 24. Jennings was appointed by Secretary of Education Arne Duncan in July 2009 as Assistant Deputy Secretary to head the Office of Safe and Drug-free Schools. Kevin is the first career educator to hold this position and brings to this role 25 years of experience, as a teacher, a writer and a leader in the fields of K-12 education and civil rights. Visit

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_safeschools.html#best](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_safeschools.html#best).

Contact: Richard Boltax at (802) 828-5125 or [richard.boltax@state.vt.us](mailto:richard.boltax@state.vt.us)

### **The Bullying and Harassment Paradox Article**

#### **Audience: All**

"Restorative practices" is an asymmetric tool that the department is encouraging schools to explore. It is compatible with a portfolio of social skills-based strategies that schools consider using, e.g., Responsive Classroom, Positive Behavior Support, Second Step, etc. Use the link below to view an article that outlines a framework for using "restorative practices" that indicated how it might be used at all levels of education and the behavioral as well as academic performance benefits that are invariable benefits. If you have questions, or are interested in assistance from the department, contact Charles Johnson. Visit

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_safeschools/pubs.html#paradox](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_safeschools/pubs.html#paradox).

Contact: Charles Johnson at (802) 828-0371 or [charles.johnson@state.vt.us](mailto:charles.johnson@state.vt.us)

### **Reminder: Nominations for Curriculum Leaders to Support Transition to Common Core State Standards**

#### **Audience: Superintendents, Curriculum Coordinators**

The department is seeking nominations from superintendents for curriculum leaders to serve on a Common Core Implementation Committee (CCIC) to assist in the guiding the professional development effort necessary to transition to new standards and assessments. The deadline for nominations to be returned is **Wednesday, July 7, 2010**. Go to

[http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm\\_curriculum.html#nominate](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_curriculum.html#nominate) to access the memo, a graphic of

the current implementation plan, a draft timeline for the transition and a form for nominating curriculum leaders.

Contact: Gail Taylor, Director, Research, Standards & Assessment Division, at (802) 828-5158 or [gail.taylor@state.vt.us](mailto:gail.taylor@state.vt.us)

**From the Department for Information and Innovation:**

**Computer and Cyber Security Web site Available**

**Audience: Teachers, Parents, Students**

The Security Office of the Vermont Department of Information and Innovation has updated its Cyber Security Web site: <http://itsecurity.vermont.gov>. There is an abundance of information for teachers who are interested in enhancing their curriculum to include cyber security. The information is appropriate for the K-12 age group. There are links on the site for students that include educational games to learn and reinforce the lessons of cyber safety. Parents will also benefit from the site as there is information on how to talk to kids about cyber safety and topics such as cyber bullying.

The site was created to educate and inform the citizens of Vermont about cyber security and safety.

Please spread the word about this site. It has valuable information for everyone, young and old.

Contact: Kris Rowley, System Security Director, Department of Information and Innovation, (802) 828-0911 or [kris.rowley@state.vt.us](mailto:kris.rowley@state.vt.us)

**From the Vermont Higher Education Collaborative:**

**VT-HEC Workshop: Test Prep at its Best – Raising Reading and Writing NECAP Scores**

**Audience: Teachers and Administrators of Grades 7-12**

This day-long workshop is designed for teachers of grades 7-12 and administrators seeking practical, effective, and research-based approaches to raising NECAP reading and writing scores, while honoring their students' curiosity and creativity. Participants will confront the question facing all 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade teachers who are committed to raising their students' performance on the reading and writing sections of NECAP: How much difference can a teacher make in merely 6 weeks? It turns out, a lot. After looking at a specific sequence of lessons over 6 weeks that can raise scores while inspiring students, we'll turn to the most important question: How can we apply these brain-based learning principles to the design of a systemic system of curriculum, assessment, and instruction?

August 4<sup>th</sup>, 9-3:30, Capitol Plaza, Montpelier \$150 Register at <http://www.vthec.org>

Contact: Kim McKellar, Administrative Assistant at [info@vthec.org](mailto:info@vthec.org) or (802) 498-3350

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**Weekly Field Memo is Online!**

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at [http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field\\_memo.html](http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html). Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or [jill.remick@state.vt.us](mailto:jill.remick@state.vt.us).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.